

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**January 27, 2015**

Among the areas, issues and initiatives on which we have worked since the last Regular Town Board Meeting are the following:

**Rice Street Feasibility Study** – Following the approval of the Town Board, the Administrator communicated/corresponded with Jeff Olson (project mgr – WisDot) regarding the Town's interest in and acceptance of WisDot's suggestion that they undertake a feasibility study on the Rice Street Extension – at no cost to the Town. Mr. Olson has confirmed that WisDot has begun all of the internal processes to move forward, develop and complete the study.

**Windsled and Winter Transportation** – Following meetings in Superior and in La Pointe, Lake Assault Boats, a subsidiary of Fraser Shipyards, submitted designs and proposals for both the re-hulling of the existing windsled (Ice Angel) and the construction of new sleds. The Winter Transportation Committee met to review and discuss the proposals and designs. The Committee moved toward the idea that, if grant/government funding can be secured, the construction of two (2) windsleds – both 26 x 9 ½ - one fitted with rescue davits to lift stretchers/litters – would be the best direction to proceed. Insofar as Windsled Transportation, Inc., has indicated that the current equipment may well last through the 2015/16 season, we have established sufficient lead time to comprehensively and effectively organize and orchestrate funding. Further information and requests for Town Board action will be provided when they come available or are required.

**Big Bay Town Park Parking** – The Administrator and Town Foreman have met on several occasions to discuss, evaluate and plan proposed voluntary parking donation/general voluntary donation receptacle and information/solicitation placard designs. The Board will discuss the results of those efforts and the Administrator and Foreman's activities will be guided by decisions and instructions that come from those deliberations.

**Fire Dept Length of Service Award Program** – Final rosters, prior-service purchases and contributions have been assembled, calculated and dispatched to the Horton Group to establish and activate the Length of Service Program for the Fire Department – appropriate checks (which tallied several thousand dollars less than originally anticipated) have been submitted and the LoS Program is now established and underway.

**General Administration** – Various issues and activities related to the consolidation of year-end administrative accounting have been/are being dealt with, including: submission of Certificates of Insurance for those contractors and service providers that have performed work for the Town of over the last year; review and response to Brown Plumbing and 5-Star Electric related to invoices and claims for payment for ‘change orders’ at Big Bay Town Park (both entities have been informed that any invoices or requests for payment must be accompanied/substantiated by signed contracts or orders); continued work on a comprehensive Personnel Policy re-write (unfortunately, one member of the working group has resigned); and, RFP and contract review for anticipated/upcoming projects and acquisitions have been processed.

**Legislative Initiatives** – The Administrator has worked closely with State Sen. Bewley and State Rep. Meyers’ offices to continue to advance the introduction of legislation, assignment to committee and testimony and advocacy to secure passage. The Legislative Research Bureau has distilled the original draft legislation down to the amendment of the prevailing statute (substantially reducing the legislative action required) and is now moving to final language and a bill to be introduced in the Assembly and Senate --- there is guarded optimism that this matter may well be resolved in this session. The potential for congressional and/or legislative action to generate/secure transportation aid for the acquisition of new windsleds is in the early assessment and planning stages – the players isolated and message/request developed – the Winter Transportation Committee and Town Board will be advised and decisions/advice and advisement sought as these issues take shape.

**Resolutions** – Draft Resolutions have been drawn and submitted to the Town Board for consideration and, if deemed appropriate, approval which are: 1) Resolution Endorsing and Supporting the Expansion of the Existing Seed Library – this responds to a request by Supervisor Curry to preempt any questions or concerns on the part of agricultural officials (the Administrator has researched potential problems and finds that the State of Wisconsin, unlike the State of Minnesota, does not have the restrictive regulations that caused difficulty with the seed library in Duluth). Irrespective of existing freedom of action, it is always good to be on the record should potential or unforeseen regulations be proposed, 2) Resolution of Support for the Town's Zoning Legislation which will be submitted to the Ashland County Board upon approval by the Town Board. The County Board has been/continues to be supportive of the legislative effort, as stipulated in the original passage of the Special Development District, but the Town needs to control the message and thrust of their Resolution – the Board has received copies of the draft for review and comment.